Dan Nalitz

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U.S. History 8

Pikes Expedition

Pikes Expedition Speech

Pikes Peak. Located 7 miles from downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado, at an altitude of 14,110 feet. On the screen right now is a picture of my family and I on the summit of Pikes Peak back in 2004. We didn’t actually hike it; we just drove the windy road up to the top, which took about 2 hours one way. This was a challenge. If you went too fast you would blow your tires. If you went to slow, you tires would lose air pressure. But, once we made it to the top, there was still a bit of snow, even though it was the middle of August. It was also a challenge to breathe, because of such the high altitude. There was even a breathing bar, in which you would put your nose on and it would pump air into your lungs. Going back down was the most challenging of them all. Again, if you went too fast, your tires would blow, and if you went too slow they would lose air pressure. About half way down, there was a HOT BRAKES FAIL sign, which meant that if your breaks were too hot, you would fly off the mountain. After the sign, they would stop and check your tire pressure to ensure they wouldn’t fail. Once we finally got to the bottom, there was almost too much air.

Anyways, my topic for you today is Pikes Expedition, or the Zebulon Pike Expedition. Zebulon Montgomery Pike was born on January 5, 1779 to a small family, at the time, in New Jersey. He was the 2nd of 8, and the only one to actually become an adult. 4 of his brothers and sisters died as children, and the other 3 all died of tuberculosis. Pikes father, also Zebulon Pike, was an officer in George Washington’s army, and then was in the fight for independence against the British. When Pike turned 15, he joined the army in his father’s regiment as a cadet. At the age of 20, he was a lieutenant in the First Infantry Regiment. This expedition, or trip, would last for about 2 years. Pike set out on this famous Voyage in July of 1806.